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Claims

- 1) A process for the preparation of gabapentin which comprises:
 - a. the Hofmann rearrangement of 1,1-cyclohexanedicetic acid monoamide;
 - 5 b. the precipitation of gabapentin by acidification of the reaction mixture obtained by said rearrangement to a pH comprised between 4 and 6.3 with an organic or inorganic acid.
- 2) A process according to claim 1 wherein the reaction mixture is acidified to a pH comprised between 5.5 and 6.3.
- 10 3) A process according to claim 1 wherein the reaction mixture is acidified to a pH value around 6.2-6.3.
- 4) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acidification of the reaction mixture is carried out with an organic acid.
- 15 5) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acidification of the reaction mixture is carried out with an acid selected among acetic, citric, hydrochloric, formic, maleic, methanesulphonic, oxalic and tartaric acid or mixtures thereof.
- 6) A process according to claim 5 wherein the acidification of the reaction mixture is carried out with a mixture of hydrochloric and formic acid.
- 7) A process according to claim 5 wherein the acidification of the reaction mixture is carried out with formic acid.
- 20 8) A process according to claim 7 wherein the formic acid is used in aqueous solution.
- 9) A process according to claim 8 wherein the formic acid is used in aqueous solution at a concentration comprised between 85% and 96%.